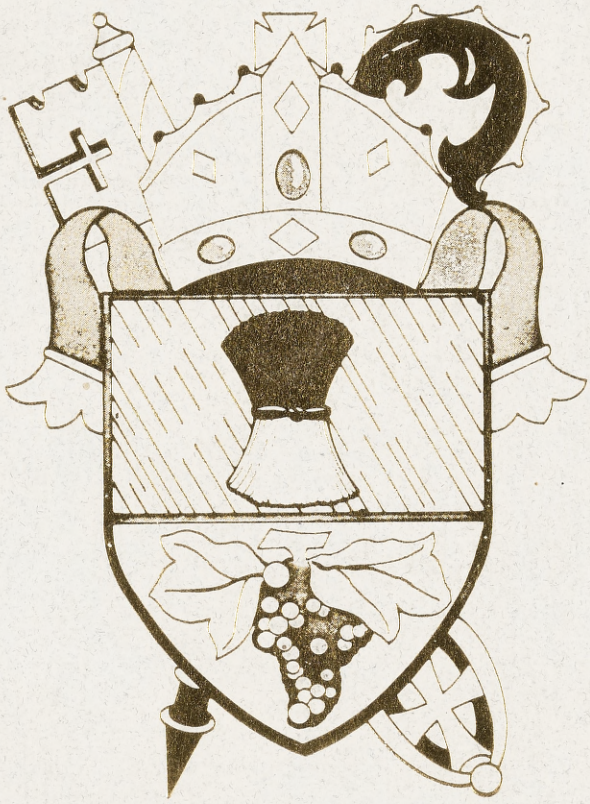

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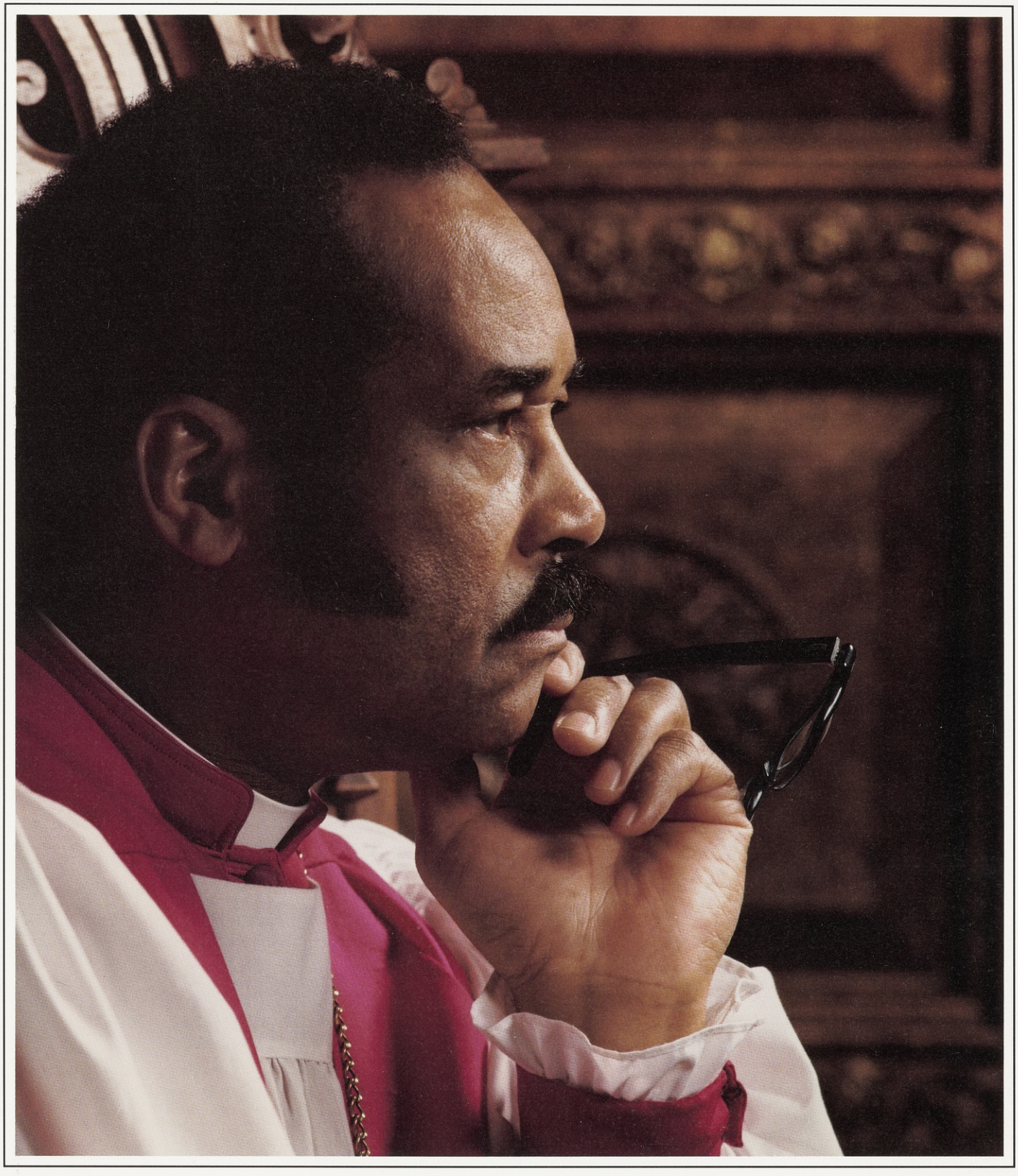


The Most Reverend James Oglethorpe Patterson, Sr.
Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle
Church of God in Christ, Inc.
Memphis, Tennessee

1912–1989

"A Man The Common People Heard Gladly"

Throughout the annals of history, we read of servants who gave unselfishly of themselves to enhance, inspire and enrich the lives of those with whom they walked and served. Among these were servants who shared the name **JAMES**.

The Holy Bible tells of Saint James, a devoted servant of Christ, who taught us to seek wisdom, to be doers of the Word, to be charitable, submissive to the Will of God and the value of prayer and faith.

History records yet another **JAMES** who served the people of England and its territories as king. His reign was documented as one that reflected beneficence toward his people and strength for the kingdom.

Among the many other **JAMES'** that made notable contributions to our society was James Weldon Johnson, a prolific novelist, poet and champion of black causes.

In His divine wisdom, God again chose a **JAMES** when he gave to the world JAMES OGLETHORPE, a child born to William and Mollie Patterson July 21, 1912, in Derma, Mississippi.

As a child he was taught divine precepts and given spiritual guidance by his parents. This training was also supported by his sister, Alice and others who were able to detect a uniqueness about the child **JAMES**.

While growing up in Derma, Mississippi; Heath, Arkansas and eventually Memphis, Tennessee; he received his formal educational training in the public schools of those cities. The majority of this training, however, was received in the Memphis City School System and the Howe School of Religion, which later became a part of the school presently known as LeMoyne-Owen College.

The godly principles instilled in this servant led him to commit his life to Christ as a young man. Shortly thereafter, he met Deborah Mason, who would later become his wife and mother of their children, James Oglethorpe, Jr. and Janet Laverne.

Deborah, her sainted father, Bishop C. H. Mason and the Mason/Patterson families rallied around the young James to lend their support after he acknowledged his call to the gospel ministry in the early thirties. After a period of training, he was ordained an elder in 1935, by Bishop A. B. McEwen. A year later he received his first charge, pastor of the church at Gates, Tennessee.

The service rendered the churches at Gates, Tennessee; Brownsville, Tennessee; Homeland Church of God in Christ, Temple Church of God in Christ, the church at 1010 Woodlawn Street in Memphis, Tennessee; Reid Temple in East Orange, New Jersey and

a very successful tenure as State President of the Youth Department caused his superiors to notice his uniqueness.

He also served the Family of Pentecostal Institutional Church of God in Christ for forty-eight years as Senior Pastor. This ministry commenced with less than twenty members, but through the years God blessed his servant mightily and the family grew to it's present membership of over three thousand and is the parent congregation of more than thirty satellite congregations.

His success in these and other ministries were some of the factors that brought him to be consecrated to the Bishopric in 1955, by Bishop C. H. Mason, with his first appointment as Prelate of the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Tennessee. His success with this assignment led to his appointment to the secretariate of the Executive Committee of the Church which was created by Bishop Mason to assist with the executive and administrative affairs of the Church. After the demise of Bishop Mason, this committee became known as the Executive Board and Bishop Patterson served this board as Member-secretary. In addition to these duties, he also served as the Church's General Secretary, member of the Board of Directors, pastor of Pentecostal Institutional Church and Manager of the Church's Publishing House.

During his sixty-first General Assembly of the Church in November of 1968, Bishop Patterson was elected the first Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ making him the spiritual leader of the 3.5 million followers of the Church, and in 1969, he became the Jurisdictional Bishop of the Headquarters Jurisdiction at Memphis, Tennessee.

Under his administration, the Church enjoyed tremendous growth in many areas. His achievements in educational related entities were the establishment of the Charles Harrison Mason Seminary at Atlanta, Georgia; the C. H. Mason System of Bible Colleges; the J. O. Patterson Fine Arts Department; the Historical Museum and Fine Arts Center and organizer of the Charles Harrison Mason Foundation and the Presiding Bishop's Benefit Fund which provides scholarships to deserving youth.

Other ministries brought about through this servant include the Church of God in Christ Bookstore, the Church of God in Christ Publishing House, J. O. Patterson Evangelistic Association and the World Fellowship of Black Pentecostal Churches.

Other involvements include serving on the Boards for The Boys Club, The Boy Scouts of America, Y.M.C.A., Memphis Landmark Commission, Lorraine Historical Museum Commission, Tri-State Bank of Memphis, The Black Church Summit of the World Council of Churches and the Congress of National Black Churches. He also served with the Rotary Club of Memphis, Save the Children Foundation and the Sheriff's Summit on Drug Prevention.

In February of 1972, the five hundred room Chisca Plaza Hotel was given to the Church by its owners Mr. Robert Snowden and his sister Mrs. Mary Todd. This property is presently serving as the Downtown Headquarters of the Church, and will become a major portion of the proposed **SAINTS CENTER**, a multi-million dollar multi-faceted operational base for the operations of the world wide ministry of the Church as envisioned and planned by Bishop Patterson. This center is also to include **ALL SAINTS UNIVERSITY**, which was near the top of his list of priorities. He so wished to provide an educational center for the youth of our world community that would be a center of study providing the best possible education coupled with a rich spiritual experience. His wishes will be honored through the efforts of the dedicated people who shared the vision.

Through his initiative, the Church's growth is evidenced by the increase in the membership which now exceeds 5,000 churches and nearly 4 million members in the fifty states and 47 foreign countries.

Honors and awards presented to Bishop Patterson were numerous. Among those received were honorary degrees from Trinity Hall College of Springfield, Illinois which were Doctors of Divinity, Laws and Philosophy. He also received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Saints College of Lexington, Mississippi and a honorary Doctor of Divinity from Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

He has been cited annually since 1975 as one of the one-hundred most influential blacks in America. He has received some one hundred keys to cities and citations for meritorious service to The Boys Club, The Boy Scouts of America, Y.M.C.A., Memphis Landmark Commission and other civic and religious organizations.

After nearly fifty-one years of marriage to Mother Deborah Mason Patterson, God ended their union at her demise. Some four years later, he took unto himself Sister Mary Peterson Peak. Although this union was brief, they were devoted to each other and the cause of Christ. Sister Patterson served the Lord's servant faithfully until his demise.

Joining Sister Patterson in the loss of Bishop Patterson is his son, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr.; his daughter, Janet Laverne; the grandchildren, J. O., III, Aaron Lamont, Jennifer Rose and Charles H. M. Patterson, John Frederick and James Indiana Wheeler; his sister, Alice Dickens; his brother, Bishop W. A. Patterson; a devoted daughter-in-law, Mrs. Rose E. Kelly Patterson; his mother-in-law, Mrs. Thelma McKeever; seven nieces; six nephews and many other relatives and friends.

As God gave unto the aforementioned **JAMES'** gifts and talents, so blessed he his servant, JAMES OGLETHORPE, in like manner.

Like Saint James, he was an Apostle who spent the greater portion of his life preaching the gospel. He prayed fervently and effectually for the sick and broken-hearted and gave a message of hope to the lost, poor and discouraged.

In many ways, and to many of us, he was a **King**. His twenty-one year reign was not, at times, without controversy; however, this era was the most notable in our Church's history, a period when we experienced growth from 500,000 members in 1968 in the United States and Africa to our present statistics of nearly 4 million members in 47 countries. His tenure also reflected beneficence toward his people and a strong kingdom.

As James Weldon Johnson was a great poet/novelist who was mighty with a pen, so, too, our James was a poet. He not only penned his thoughts, he was one whose dignity, poise, character and speech was poetic.

He was a true champion of the people whose compassion was overwhelming. He had a duty to perform that was not always pleasant, but he handled the situations with compassion and dignity for he knew that "when love takes over, duty becomes delight." He was a man of the people, a Prince among men who never lost the common touch. In every way, he was **"A MAN THE COMMON PEOPLE HEARD GLADLY."**

The Worship Celebration

Pentecostal Institutional
Church of God in Christ

The Order of Divine Worship

Elder Robert L. Williams, Jr.
Administrative Assistant, Headquarters Jurisdiction
Presiding

Wednesday, January 3, 1990
7:30 p.m.

+ Where indicated, please stand.

THE ORGAN PRELUDE ..... Mr. Lonnie McKinley Haley, III

\+ **THE INVOCATION** ..... **Elder Lemon Timothy Frye**
Administrative Assistant, Headquarters Jurisdiction

THE OLD TESTAMENT ..... **Elder Charles Samuel Tucker**
Joshua 1:2 - 7 Chairman, Executive Board
Headquarters Jurisdiction

THE NEW TESTAMENT ..... **Elder Maurice Matthew Brown**
I Thessalonians 4:13 - 18 Sunday School Superintendent
Headquarters Jurisdiction

\+ **THE HYMN** ..... Choir and Congregation
"I Know Who Holds Tomorrow"

TRIBUTES: ..... **Brother Frank Douglas**
Usher Board #1
Usher Board #2
Usher Board #3
Youth Usher Board

..... **Mrs. Lillian Carr**
Deaconess Board
Y.P.W.W.
Birthday Club
Gospel Messengers

RESOLUTION ..... **Tennessee Fifth Jurisdiction**

THE SELECTION ..... C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

TRIBUTES: ..... **Elder Curtis Morris**
Minister's Alliance
Bible Band
School of the Prophet

..... **Mrs. Frances Kelly**
Evangelist Missionaries
Daughter of Zion
Mother's Board
Wednesday Prayer

RESOLUTION ..... **Tennessee Fourth Jurisdiction**

THE SELECTION ..... C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

TRIBUTE: ..... **Dr. Benjamin Hooks**
Executive Director, NAACP

RESOLUTION ..... **Mr. Jerry Gilmore**
President, National Funeral Directors
and Morticians Association

TRIBUTES: ..... **Miss Lisa Wright**
Youth Choir
Purity Class
Sunshine Band
Orientation Ministry

..... **Mrs. Christine M. Cleaves**
Daughters of Deborah
Christian Innovators
Christian Ambassadors

RESOLUTION ..... **Tennessee Central Jurisdiction**

THE SELECTION ..... C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

TRIBUTES: ..... **Brother Robert L. Kiner**
Deacons
Israelite Society
Bethel Club
Good Shepherd

..... **Mrs. Mattie Wigley**
Deborah Mason Patterson Choir
Television Ministry
Y.W.C.C.
Executive Hospitality

RESOLUTION ..... **Tennessee Second Jurisdiction**

THE SELECTION ..... C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

RESOLUTION ..... **Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction**

+ **THE HYMN** ..... Choir and Congregation
"Victory In Jesus"

THE BENEDICTION ..... **Elder Eric Farmer**

THE RECESSIONAL

The Hymns Of Praise

124 I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

Fear ye not . . . ye are of more value than many sparrows . . .
Matthew 10:31

Ira F. Stanphill

Ira F. Stanphill

1 I don't know a - bout to - mor - row, I just live
2 Ev - ery step is get - ting bright - er As the gold -
3 I don't know a - bout to - mor - row, It may bring
1 from day to day; I don't bor - row from its sun-shine,
2 en stairs I climb; Ev - ery bur - den's get - ting light - er,
3 me pov - er - ty; But the one who feeds the spar - row,
1 For its skies may turn to gray. I don't wor - ry o'er the
2 Ev - ery cloud is sil - ver - lined. There the sun is al - ways
3 Is the one who stands by me. And the path that is my
1 fu - ture, For I know what Je - sus said; And to - day
2 shin - ing, There no tear will dim the eye; At the end -
3 por - tion, May be through the flame or flood; But His pres -
1 I'll walk be - side Him, For He knows what is a - head.
2 ing of the rain - bow, Where the moun - tains touch the sky.
3 ence goes be - fore me, And I'm cov - ered with His blood.
Man - y things a - bout to - mor - row I don't
seem to un - der - stand; But I know who
holds to - mor - row, And I know who holds my hand.

98 Victory in Jesus

And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
1 John 5:4

Eugene M. Bartlett — Eugene M. Bartlett

1 I heard an old, old sto - ry, how a Sav - ior came from glo - ry,
2 I heard a - bout His heal - ing, of His cleans - ing power re - veal - ing,
3 I heard a - bout a man - sion He has built for me in glo - ry,
1 How He gave His life on Cal - va - ry to save a wretch like me;
2 How He made the lame to walk a - gain and caused the blind to see;
3 And I heard a - bout the streets of gold be - yond the crys - tal sea;
1 I heard a - bout His groan - ing, of His pre - cious blood's a - ton - ing,
2 And then I cried, "Dear Je - sus, come and heal my bro - ken spir - it,"
3 A - bout the an - gels sing - ing and the old re - demp - tion sto - ry,
1 Then I re - pent - ed of my sins and won the vic - to - ry.
2 And some - how Je - sus came and brought to me the vic - to - ry.
3 And some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of vic - to - ry.
O vic - to - ry in Je - sus, my Sav - ior, for - ev - er! He sought me and
bought me with His re - deem - ing blood; He loved me ere I knew Him, and
all my love is due Him—He plunged me to vic - to - ry be - neath the cleans - ing flood.

A Prince Among Men...

President to President
Bishop Patterson meets President Ronald Reagan at White House State Dinner.

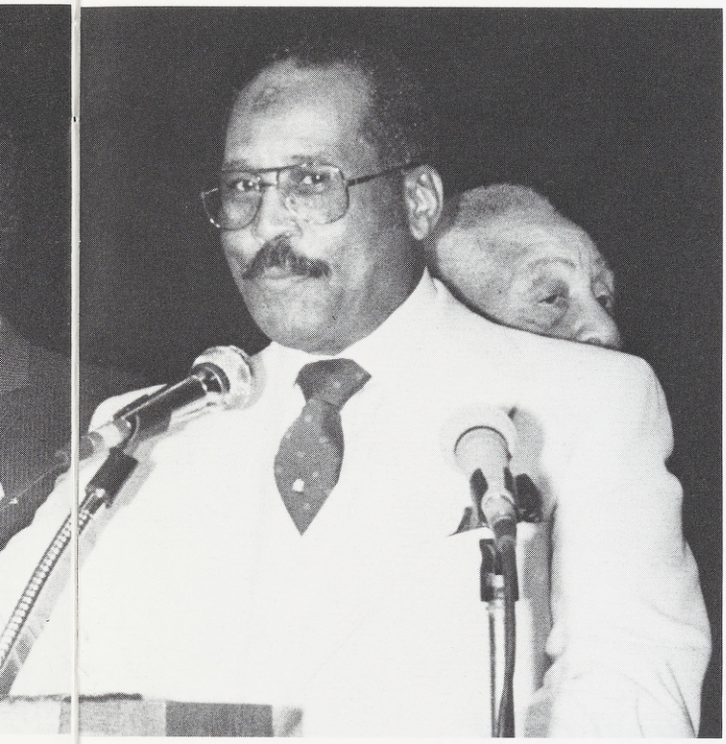
Bishop J. O. Patterson presents Re *veren*
delegates to the Holy Convocation. *Bisho*
L. H. Ford observing.

Welcoming President Jimmy Carter to Memphis.

Bishop Patterson meets with Th *e Hon*
Representatives, and Congress *man H*

Prime Minister Shimon Peres receives our Chief Apostle and Member of the Board of Bishops at the Kenesset in Jerusalem.

The Chief Apostle greets His Excellency Jose' Sarney, President of The Federative Republic of Brazil.



ts Re verend Jesse Jackson to
ation. Bishops F. D. Washington and

ith The Honorable Tip O'Neil, Speaker of The House of
ngress man Harold Ford.

Bishop J. O. Patterson meets with Dr. T. Zimmerman, former General Superintendent, Assemblies of God.

...Who Never Lost The Common Touch.

Speaking of Gifts... Young, Gifted... and COGIC

Scholarship Recipients with Bishop Patterson and Sis. Powell.

Recognizing a Servant's Service...

General Supervisor and Assistants greet Bishop Patterson.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Family of our Sainted Father,
The Most Reverend James Oglethorpe Patterson, Sr.,
takes this means to express their
deep appreciation for the many acts of love
shown them during this most difficult time.
May God smile upon you and
bless you richly for your thoughtfulness.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests
that all gifts be sent to:

The James Oglethorpe Patterson Memorial
c/o Saints Center
Post Office Box 320
Memphis, Tennessee 38101

Your gift will aid in hastening the opening of
ALL SAINTS UNIVERSITY,
the dream of our fallen leader.